

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUGAR SAND PARK - 300 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL
November 17, 2014

The MEETING was called to order by CHAIRMAN Vogelgesang at approximately 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Steven M. Engel
Dennis R. Frisch
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.
Earl L. Starkoff
Susan Vogelgesang

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Michele Peel

7391 NE 8th Court, Boca Raton

Ms. Peel noted that “Save the Date” announcements to the Sea Coast Toast Fundraiser in January were recently sent out and she hopes that the Commissioners will attend. Referencing the agenda for the proposed City/District joint meeting, she would like the District to consider not just specific projects and items, but to seek ways to improve the overall City/District relationship and collaborate to the benefit of all of the beach/parks under joint management and oversight. For informational purposes, Ms. Peel advised that she and Jim Miller, President of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo attended a session sponsored by the Community Foundation of the Palm Beaches which focused on water and education in the community. There may be an opportunity to apply for funds from the Community Foundation as it prepares its Environmental Funding Objectives for 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2014.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Agenda Items for Joint City/District Meeting

The City of Boca Raton has requested a joint meeting, however, no date has yet been established. At the November 3rd meeting, the Board discussed the need for a pre-agreed upon agenda. Mr. Koski, Interim Executive Director, brought forth the following suggestions for discussion:

1. Beach Renourishment
2. DeHoernle Park Phase II
3. Proposed Improvements and Amended Master Plan at Red Reef Park

4. Plans for District owned facilities:
 - a. Sugar Sand Park Science Playground
 - b. Patch Reef Park Amended Master Plan and Athletic Fields
 - c. Swim & Racquet Center – Contemplated Improvements

On November 25th Mr. Koski will meet with the City Manager for a general discussion about a joint meeting and some of the items intended to be discussed. He asked the Commissioners if they had any specific requests.

Commissioner Rollins stated he would like the following issues discussed: communication and the lack of follow-through; improvements in work flow to move projects forward; financial issues - whether it is the budget, timely monthly invoices or unexplainable billing errors; explore how we can operate in a clear and concise fashion; discuss the professional relationship between the District, City and public and how staff is managed - try to make the process smoother in the way the public perceives the District.

Commissioner Engel is concerned about operation and maintenance issues: 1) the cost to repair and maintain equipment; 2) address work flow timelines in terms of when the City gets a project and when the District can actually start on it; and 3) improve communication. Make sure we all have the same focus.

Commissioner Starkoff reflected on how the District has changed and developed over the years: the growth of its budget; its operation as more than a funding agency/quasi-advisory Board; increased population growth; and major changes in the make-up of the Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director position. He felt that 1998 was the point in time when the District evolved into the “second generation” of development. Somehow, between the City and the District, that development has not been recognized, and it appears to be the source of disconnect and frustration in communication that now exists between the two entities. The mindset that exists needs to be changed by direction from elected City officials to staff. The City needs to understand that we cannot hold onto the nostalgia of the way it was, but needs to get our staffs together to effectuate this change going forward for the next 25 years. To manage the strategic plan it creates, the District has to be willing to accept greater responsibilities and obligations and possibly increase staff.

Commissioner Frisch stated that the City needs to be advised that our budget and ordering processes are different and that they don't necessarily mesh – just because an item was approved in 2012, does not mean that funding still exists for it. The District needs to manage expectations and remind the City that when we pay for service we expect service. Manage expectations - set out where we are, and say what we expect.

Commissioner Rollins felt that the conflict seems to be that the District wants to assume more authority and responsibility and, our partner, the City, is not willing to go along with that. The District is a different District than it was 30 year ago. The City needs to know what our expectations are as a Board. The District has managed its resources prudently and can do an even better job if the City would recognize our development and help us to continue to grow.

Commissioner Engel stated that the City needs to understand that the District is capable of doing more than just being a glorified fund raiser for the City. The District has the experience and expertise to assume additional responsibilities.

Mr. Koski noted that the District provides the City a significant amount of money. The District has an obligation to its taxpayers for accountability for the money after the adoption of the budget. The District should be involved in a continued dialogue with the City as to the disposition of the funds and that accountability can only be achieved by the willingness of the City to have the District more actively involved in the process.

2. Approval of Explorium Exhibits

Mr. Koski submitted a list of four exhibits recommended by the City of Boca Raton for the Children's Explorium. City staff has advised that exhibit number one, *Design Zone*, is time sensitive; the vendor is awaiting approval at this meeting, or the exhibit may go elsewhere. The City transmittal of the exhibit packet has caused an additional delay.

Commissioner Rollins noted that exhibit numbers one, three and four are all with the same company. His concern with all three exhibits are: 1) the deposit payment schedule is too aggressive; 2) the cancellation policy favors the rental company; insurance liability limits are not consistent; and 4) the schedule of value coverages do not coincide with the one million Certificate of Liability coverage requested.

Mr. Koski stated that should the Board approve exhibit number one tonight, he will immediately inquire of the vendor the concerns expressed by Commissioner Rollins and whether any of the items are negotiable.

Due to the time element involved, Commissioner Starkoff suggested approving exhibit one, *Design Zone*, and tabling the other three exhibit approvals until December 8th 2014.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Starkoff and seconded by Commissioner Engel to execute the contract with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry for "*Design Zone*" for a price of \$36,000 plus shipping changes with an initial deposit of \$7,200.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Approval of Proposed Schedule of District Board Meetings & Office Closings for 2015

Mr. Koski provided the 2015 District calendar of Board meetings and office closings and recommends approval.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Frisch to approve the District calendar of Board meetings and office closings for 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

APPROVAL OF INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Starkoff and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the invoices as presented totaling \$33,087.21.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director

CIP Funding to City of Boca Raton

Mr. Koski stated that he received the appropriate District forms from the City today. He will have the requests and a few additional capital items placed on the December 8th agenda. Negotiations with the City on information technology requests are on-going.

Zimmer Consultants

Mr. Zimmer will have a report on walkway and parking lot lighting issues at Sugar Sand Park on December 8th.

Sugar Sand Park Playground

Mr. Leathers will meet with Sandra Gottfried to make sure she is comfortable with the final product of the science playground. The project will then be ready to go out for bid.

Swim & Racquet Center Improvements

Currently underway is an as-built survey for the location of some of the facilities. A new boundary survey was completed and submitted to the City of Boca Raton for plan review and any land planning issues that may be required.

Patch Reef Park Athletic Fields

The District held a public meeting on November 12th to garner information from users of the athletic fields and the community regarding artificial turf vs. natural grass. Awaiting input from Motre and Stantec.

District Counsel - None

Commissioners

Interpretive Exhibits at Gumbo Limbo

Commissioner Starkoff inquired about the status of the interpretive exhibits at Gumbo Limbo. Mr. Koski responded that Mr. Mike Kroll of Miller Legg was scheduled this evening to give a presentation on the master plan amendment to Red Reef Park. His presentation has been rescheduled for December 8th. Before putting the exhibits out to bid, Mr. Koski would like the Board to hear from Mr. Kroll who may have some interesting suggestions relating to Gumbo Limbo.

Tour of Beaches

Commissioner Engel advised that he had an opportunity to tour the beaches with staff at Gumbo Limbo. He rode in a “Gator” vehicle at the beach and, in his opinion, this type of vehicle is not well suited for use on the beach. In addition, he noticed the on-going beach renourishment process and that the replacement material being dredged and put on the beach is basically “mud”.

Ocean Strand Fencing

Commissioner Frisch inquired if a new split rail fence was going to be installed along A-1-A at Ocean Strand to prevent vehicles from gaining access to the site and causing damage. City staff will be asked to secure the premises. Ms. Briann Harms, Assistant Director will follow-up on this installation.

Red Reef Park Sign

Commissioner Starkoff inquired about the status of replacing the “Sea Lice” sign at Red Reef Park. Ms. Harms reported that to-date, the sign has not been removed or replaced; she will follow-up on the matter.

Sugar Sand Park Field House

Commissioner Rollins stated that the issue of parking needs to be solved before going forward with a second field house.

DeHoernle Park

Commissioner Rollins suggested consideration be given to installing benches down the main sidewalk and other strategic places at DeHoernle Park.

Additionally, Commissioner Starkoff expressed concern about the lack of player benches on the field for children when they are not in the game.

Gumbo Limbo Pumps

